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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION FROM

REPORT

CD NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, crop goals

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 11 May 1953

WHERE
PUBLISHED China

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 17 - 23 Jan 1953

LANGUAGE Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INCREASED GOALS FOR 1953 CROP PRODUCTION IN NORTHEAST;
PREPARATION FOR SPRING PLANTING IN NORTHWEST CHINA

Summary: As the main agricultural goal of 1953, the regional and local governments of Northeast China have decided to expand the area in which improved-crop-production methods are employed. Chou-yuan Hsien in Heilungkiang Province plans for grain production of 18,000 catties per hectare on 5,000 hectares.

Units of the People's Liberation Army in Sinkiang produced 200 million catties of grain and 20 million catties of cotton in 1952. Famine conditions in Fou-p'ing Hsien, Shensi, have been reported.⁷

NORTHEAST EMPHASIZES HIGH YIELDS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 23 Jan 53

The regional and local governments of the Northeast have been setting their agricultural goals for 1953. The total amount of the planned yields set on the local levels exceeds that set by the regional government by 2.7 percent. The main goal in all parts of the Northeast for 1953 is expansion of the areas in which improved-crop-production methods are employed.

The combined improved-crop-area goal for Heilungkiang, Sungkiang, and Kirin provinces is 1,300,000 hectares which is 10 to 15 percent of the total cultivated area. The goal for this improved-crop area is 50 percent increase over the actual 1952 production per unit of area. Chao-yuan Hsien, which received the 1952 national model production award, in Heilungkiang, plans for 5,000 hectares producing 10,000 catties of grain per hectare, 1,000 high-production mutual aid teams, 40 improved-crop villages. If the plan succeeds, production for the hsien will exceed the 1952 production by 33 percent.

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Throughout the Northeast, the over-all goals are established by top-level officials, but the methods and details are determined on the lower administrative levels. Mutual aid teams and experienced farmers advise the people's delegates on possibilities of production. Local estimates are based largely on results already attained by mutual aid teams and agricultural production co-operatives. Party members, New Democracy Youth Corps members, and model farmers constitute the functional leadership in rural areas. Expanded goals are based on selected area achievements. Final goals are then set by the provincial cadres and the hsien and ch'u representative conferences. Any discord between upper and lower levels and formalism in the program are thus avoided.

In Lung-hua Hsien, Jehol, 80 new wells, and 32 new irrigation canals have been dug and 33 wells and 36 canals repaired. Some 2,060 million catties of fertilizer have been collected. Income from supplementary industries in the hsien has reached the equivalent of 7.14 million catties of grain. In Shuang-ch'eng Hsien, Sungkiang, supplementary industries supplied sufficient funds for the purchase of 150 good work horses. Many hsien are instituting plans for more efficient transfer of city sewage to the farms.

HIGH PRODUCTION BY PLA IN SINKIANG -- Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 18 Jan 53

During 1952, units of the People's Liberation Army engaged in agriculture in Sinkiang Province harvested 200 million catties of grain crops and 20 million catties of unginned cotton. The grain production was 125.4 percent and the cotton production 250 percent of the combined production of the previous 2 years. The increase in production per unit of area over 1951 was 39 percent for wheat, 25 percent for rice and 88 percent for cotton. One army unit produced 1,377 catties of wheat per mou, constituting a record crop per unit of area for the nation.

The success of the army in 1952 is attributed to better understanding of Sinkiang climate and soil conditions, improved seed selection, and better planting methods. This success has aroused great interest among the minority nationalities in modern scientific and collective methods of agriculture. Greater interest in the mutual aid team program was created.

The troops contributed over 70 million catties of seed and food grain and 1,720 horse-drawn implements to the people.

MINORITY PEOPLES INTERESTED IN 1953 PRODUCTION -- Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 17 Jan 53

The minority peoples throughout the provinces of the Northwest are digging canals, repairing dikes, adding work animals and implements, and preparing fertilizer to be ready for spring agricultural work. Good crops of grain and cotton in 1952 stimulated interest in more intensive preparations for the 1953 season.

FAMINE IN LOU-P'ING HSIEN -- Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 17 Jan 53

The peasants of Fou-p'ing Hsien, a mountainous area in Shensi, suffered near famine conditions during the past winter because of both drought and floods during the crop season which resulted in very short production. The hsien government has issued 68 million yuan in relief funds. Cadre conferences were held to consider organization of the peasants for self-relief, such as digging medicinal plants, making reed mats, hunting, burning lime, etc. These activities are now under way.

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The farmers now realize the value of winter activities in the fields to prepare them for crops. Cadres still lack the means of solving the implement shortages that plague the people.

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